

Message Text

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43/14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01

DRC-01 IO-13 INRE-00 EURE-00 /127 W

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O P 120856Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8636

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY QTUY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 5172

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR HEADING ADDING OTTAWA AS ADDEE)

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO XT, BE

SUB: REORIENTATION OF BELGIAN OR CVP POSITION ON US AND NATO

RELATIONS DENIED

SUMMARY: AMSTERDAM PAPER'S REPORT THAT FONMIN VAN ELSLANDE AND CVP

WILL REORIENT BELGIAN FOREIGN POLICY FROM SUPPORT OF US AND NON-

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INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS, TO INCLUDE

OUSTER OF PORTUGAL, GREECE AND TURKEY FROM NATO OR WITHDRAWAL OF BELGIUM, IS DENIED BY FONOFF AND CVP PRESIDENT.

2. ACCORDING TO STORY IN AMSTERDAM CONSERVATIVE DAILY "DE TELEGRAAF" OF SEPTEMBER 8, REPORTED BRIEFLY ONLY IN BRUSSELS FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILIES "LE SOIR" AND "LA CITE", FONMIN VAN ELSLANDE ALLEGEDLY TOLD "DE TELEGRAAF" REPORTER THAT HE WOULD CONCERT WITH HIS DUTCH COLLEAGUE TO EXCLUDE FROM NATO COUNTRIES NOT CONFORMING TO DEMOCRATIC NORMS, SUCH AS PORTUGAL, GREECE AND TURKEY. STORY ALLEGED THAT FLEMISH SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY (CVP) CHAIRMAN MARTENS HAD ALSO "ANNOUNCED" THAT HIS PARTY WOULD PROPOSE MODIFICATION OF BELGIUM'S TRADITIONAL POLICY IN SUPPORT OF THE US AND OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, ALTERNATIVE CVP POLICIES APROPOS NATO WOULD, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, BE TO REMAIN MEMBER ON CONDITION THAT PORTUGAL, GREECE AND TURKEY BE EXCLUDED OR TO WITHDRAW.

3. FONOFF "DEMENTI" WHICH BELGIAN PAPERS PRINTED ALONG WITH THEIR REPORTS OF DUTCH STORY, SAID STORY WAS "REPORT, WITH VERY LITTLE NUANCE, OF A LONG CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER IN THE COURSE OF WHICH VAN ELSLANDE DISCUSSED IDEAS ADVANCED DURING HIS LAST STATEMENT BEFORE THE BELGIAN SENATE" (SEE BRUSSELS 2925). VAN ELSLANDE'S CHIEF DE CABINET, NOTERDAEME, WAS MORE CATEGORIC WITH EMBASSY CHARGE, CALLING REPORT "PURE NONSENSE," ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF SOME INDISCRETIONS BY FONMIN. DIRECTOR WESTERN ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS DEVER CALLED DCM SEPT 10 TO SAY THAT VAN ELSLANDE WAS CALLING IN THE GREEK, PORTUGUESE AND TURKISH AMBASSADORS TO "CLEAR UP THE MATTER". SHE ASSERTED THAT THE DUTCH REPORTER HAD "MISHANDLED" VAN ELSLANDE'S COMMENTS. SHE ALSO ASSURED EMBASSY THAT FONMIN HAD NOT SAID THAT US TROOPS WERE IN EUROPE EXCLUSIVELY IN US SELF-INTEREST AS REPORTED IN SAME "DE TELEGRAAF" STORY; FONMIN HAD NOT DISCUSSED US TROOPS AT ALL IN HIS INTERVIEW. (IN FACT, "DE TELEGRAAF" DOES NOT CREDIT FONMIN WITH STATEMENT BUT SAYS CVP PAPER STATES AMERICAN NUCLEAR PROTECTION IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AS BEING PURE SELF INTEREST.) DEVER CALLED ATTENTION TO PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON'S STRONG STATEMENT ON BELGIAN COMMITMENT TO NATO BEFORE ATA MEETING AT BRUSSELS MONDAY, REMARKING THAT BELGIAN POLICY UNCHANGED AND CITING VAN ELSLANDE'S STATEMENT AT LAST NATO MINISTERIAL AS EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT POLICY.

4. AT LUNCHEON WITH EMB OFF SEPT 11, MARTENS SAID "DE TELEGRAAF" REPORT WAS RIDICULOUS". HE SAID HE HAD ONLY GIVEN DRAFT PAPERS FOR OCTOBER CONGRESS TO NEW "DE TELEGRAAF" REPORTER HERE WHO HAD THEN PROCEEDED TO EXCERPT STATEMENTS OUT OF CONTEXT AND TO IGNORE BASIC THRUST OF PROPOSALS WHICH HE SAID WERE RELATED TO DR. KISSINGER'S VIEW OF MOVEMENT FROM BIPOLAR TO MULTIPOLAR WORLD

AND VARIOUS ROLES OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WITHIN MAJOR
CONSTELLATIONS.

HE SAID THIS WAS STRAIGHT FROM LECTURES HE HAD HEARD IN KISSINGER
SEMINAR IN 1968, ALTHOUGH "OBVIOUSLY ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
COULD NOT AGREE WITH LIMITED ROLES ACCORDED THEM." HE CLAIMED
VAN ELSLANDE WAS, IN FACT, CONSIDERING COOPERATION WITH DUTCH
AND OTHERS IN "PRESSING" FOR DEMOCRATIZATION OF PORTUGUESE,
GREEK AND TURKISH REGIMES BUT NOT WITH STARK ALTERNATIVES
REPORTED IN
"DE TELEGRAAF". DUTCH REPORTER HAD IGNORED REFERENCES IN
DRAFT PAPERS TO LIMITATIONS UPON BELGIUM'S INFLUENCE IN ALLIANCE
AS WHOLE. NEVERTHELESS, HE DID SAY THAT ONE ALTERNATIVE TO BE
CONSIDERED BY CVP WAS POSSIBILITY OF SPECIAL DEFENSE ARRANGE-
MENT WITH NON-DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OUTSIDE NATO FRAMEWORK.

5. MARTENS SAID, AS DID NOTERDAEME, THAT NEW GENERATION IN
CVP WAS TAKING MORE "MORALISTIC" VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
AS CONTRASTED TO PRACTICAL VIEW OF THOSE WHO HAD EXPERIENCED
WORLD WARS. CVP CONGRESS IN OCTOBER WOULD SEE FOR FIRST TIME
EXPRESSION OF VIEWS ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OTHER THAN BY THOSE
FEW AT TOP WHO HERETOFORE HAD EXERTED PROPRIETARY INTEREST IN THEM.
HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY GREAT CHANGES IN CVP ATTITUDES ON FOREIGN
POLICY AS RESULT OF CONGRESS, WHICH WOULD FOCUS MAINLY ON
INTRA-EUROPEAN AND THIRD WORLD RELATIONSHIPS, AND CERTAINLY
NOT THE EMOTIONALISM EVIDENT IN HOLLAND. WHEN FLEMINGS BEGIN
TO TALK REALLY SERIOUSLY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HE COMMENTED WRYLY,
YOU WILL KNOW THAT THE
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